

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL (PEA)



A thorough ecological evaluation of a proposed development site can identify potential constraints and opportunities at an early stage and enable satisfactory outcomes to be achieved. This is particularly important when dealing with protected sites and protected and notable species. UK and European legislation affords protection to statutory designated Sites of Nature Conservation Importance; including National Nature Reserves, Special Protection Areas, Local Nature Reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Other sites have been identified as having a local or regional importance for nature conservation, and are given non-statutory designations within Local and Structure Plans. Non-statutory designations include Local Wildlife Sites, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, EcoSites and various similar terms, and the criteria used in designating such sites varies significantly between counties.

An ecological evaluation of any site (designated or not) can inform the planning process, facilitate improved management practices, inform Management Plans and identify important species which may be present.

A typical site evaluation would include an Preliminary Ecological Appraisal to identify the dominant habitat types within a site and any habitats of high ecological importance; an ecological assessment of the site using nationally and locally recognised criteria which includes both objective and subjective assessment of the site's nature conservation value; and an assessment of the potential for the site to support protected or notable species of flora and fauna.



Our Ecologists can provide:

- ✓ Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (including Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey)
- ✓ Ecological evaluations against the nationally recognised criteria
- ✓ Protected and notable species risk assessments
- ✓ Ecological Impact Assessments (EclA)
- ✓ Evaluations of sites against statutory and non-statutory designation criteria
- ✓ Liaison with stakeholders and interested parties
- ✓ Management Planning
- ✓ Report production to support planning applications and Environmental Statements



Our Ecologists possess extensive experience and knowledge of habitat assessment, protected species and development control, and are members of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and the Royal Society of Biology and abide by their codes of professional conduct.

